

# Abby's Little Adventure

By: HW, Grade 7 Student, Nashwaaksis Middle School

When Abby was very young, there were children who lived next door who would torment her by pulling on her ears ... and tail. Yes, Abby is a five-year-old miniature Sheltie dog. She is owned by my relatives, Marilyn and David, who are both retired school teachers living here in Fredericton. Their two boys are all grown up and Marilyn and David only have their “baby” at home now. The continual teasing by the neighbour’s children has made Abby very nervous and she doesn’t like to be around small kids or even most people for that matter. Like all doting parents, Marilyn and David want only the best for their dog. Abby is well fed, walked and groomed regularly, and lives in a very comfortable home, complete with her own cozy bed. Clearly, Abby is a very well cared for animal, and like some families who have an “only child,” she is a wee bit spoiled.

Marilyn and David love to travel but can’t always take “the baby” with them. Kennels are not Marilyn’s first choice, but recently they booked a two-week trip to Washington and it was looking like a kennel would be the only choice. Marilyn was given the name of a local kennel and went to check it out. Would it be good enough for Abby? No. The kennel seemed so cold and dirty. The owner had a personality to match. There would be no kennel stay for this pampered pooch. What to do?

David has a brother, Richard, who lives in Gagetown. He is now retired as well, so David and Marilyn asked a big favour to see if Richard would babysit while they are away on their trip. He agreed and both David and Marilyn feel very comfortable now, because they can safely travel knowing their beloved Abby will be in a warm home and well looked after. Richard also has two dogs of his own and two cats. Marilyn is satisfied, especially knowing Richard's wife, Linda, is also a veterinarian. What more could you ask for? Washington, here we come!

Richard and Linda, the dog-sitters, have a very nice home in Gagetown. It is also very private with woods surrounding their home and the closest neighbours would be quite a distance away. They have a large backyard where they let their animals play because a very busy highway is at the front of the house. The very first morning of dogsitting, Richard decides to take Abby for her normal daily walk. It wasn't more than two minutes before Abby got startled and wriggled her way out of her collar and ran off into the woods at top speed. Richard was frantic. Knowing the dog was nervous of most people, he feared the dog would not come to him when called. He was absolutely right. Richard yelled and yelled for Abby, but she was gone. The woods behind Richard's house were thick and full of other animals ... animals bigger than Abby ... coyotes and bears. Remember, poor Abby is a very small Sheltie who has never run free in a thick wooded forest.

Richard and Linda continually called and called for the dog all day. They drove around in their car to see if they might spot her. No luck. Now it was starting to get dark and how could they go to bed knowing the dog was out in the woods and would have no idea how to get back or how to keep warm. Both Richard and Linda felt sick about this. How could they tell Marilyn and David?

The next morning there was still no sign of Abby. Posters were made, neighbours were to keep a watch out, and even an article was posted in the Lost & Found section of the paper. They handed out flyers everywhere and as each day passed with no sightings of Abby, they were starting to lose hope. After four days, finally Richard got word from a distant neighbour who thought they saw the dog. As a last hope, Linda got a special dog trap from her Veterinary Clinic and placed some food and a blanket in the trap. They set the trap in the area where the neighbour thought they saw Abby in a nearby trailer park. Chances are not good, but they have to make every possible attempt to find the dog, hoping she is still out there and will fall for the trap. The following day the trap is checked. Nothing. Both Richard and Linda never stop searching in the meantime. Every few hours, they go back and check the trap. Two days later the trap is checked again. Guess what was in there? Unfortunately, it was a very angry raccoon! Richard keeps putting fresh food in the trap every day and continues to check it regularly. Seven days have now gone by and there have been no more sightings of Abby. They fear the worst and can now only assume the dog has either been hit by a car, starved to death or has been attacked by a coyote. The weather in April has been quite cold. In fact, one night we had freezing rain. That next day, Richard and Linda knew the dog could never have survived a freezing night and decided to give up on their search for Abby. Richard

headed out to go collect the trap and return it to the Vet Clinic. As he pulled up to where the trap was set, he thought he heard a whimper. Richard looked a little closer and saw another raccoon had gone in the trap. He slowly approached to let it out, when upon closer view, he couldn't believe his eyes ... it was a very thin, scared and cold little Sheltie dog and an empty food dish.

Eight days out in the cold without shelter, food, water and love, but little Abby survived. Persistence does indeed pay off. Persistence paid off for Richard and Linda after all their efforts to find the dog. Persistence paid off for Abby too, who somehow found a way to survive an eight-day ordeal. Persistence paid off for the Pup!

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Introduction	First paragraph has a "grabber" or catchy beginning. The main character and the setting are introduced in a clear, concise way.	First paragraph has a weak "grabber". The main character and the setting are introduced.	A catchy beginning was attempted but was confusing rather than catchy. It is unclear who the main character is or what the setting is.	No attempt was made to catch the reader's attention in the first paragraph. Little to no mention of the main character or the setting.
Spelling and Punctuation	There are no spelling or punctuation errors in the final draft. Character and place names that the author invented are spelled consistently throughout.	There is one spelling or punctuation error in the final draft.	There are 2-3 spelling and punctuation errors in the final draft.	The final draft has more than 3 spelling and punctuation errors
Setting	Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell when and where the story took place.	Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story took place.	The reader can figure out when and where the story took place, but the author didn't supply much detail.	The reader has trouble figuring out when and where the story took place.
Problem/Conflict	It is very easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face but it is not clear why it is a problem.	It is not clear what problem the main characters face.
Characters	The main characters are named and clearly	The main characters are named and described.	The main characters are named. The reader knows	It is hard to tell who the main characters are.

	described in text. Most readers could describe the characters accurately.	Most readers would have some idea of what the characters looked like.	very little about the characters.	
Action	Several action verbs (active voice) are used to describe what is happening in the story. The story seems exciting!	Several action verbs are used to describe what is happening in the story, but the word choice doesn't make the story as exciting as it could be.	A variety of verbs (passive voice) are used and describe the action accurately but not in a very exciting way.	Little variety seen in the verbs that are used. The story seems a little boring.
Solution/Resolution	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is logical. There are no loose ends.	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is somewhat logical.	The solution to the character's problem is a little hard to understand.	No solution is attempted or it is impossible to understand.
Organization	The story is very well organized. One idea or scene follows another in a logical sequence with clear transitions.	The story is pretty well organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used.	The story is a little hard to follow. The transitions are sometimes not clear.	Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged.
Theme	The entire story is related to the chosen theme. The theme relates well to the chosen plot, characters, setting, etc.	Most of the story is related to the theme. The other elements of the story fit quite well with the theme.	Some of the story is related to the theme, but the elements of the story don't fit well with the theme.	There is no clear theme.

Story: 36/36

Peer evaluation: 2/2

Class mark: 2/2

Total: 40/40 Great job!